

Remarks

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

- 5    Claims 1-17, 21-27, 30, 32, and 34-57 are pending.

The specification has been amended to delete seven paragraphs on page 10 from line 3 to line 31. These paragraphs are redundant and can be found duplicated from page 11, line 22 to page 12, line 13.

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- Claims 17 and 27 have been amended to describe the dye-based ink-jet ink composition as comprising "at least one water-soluble dye" and "at least one water soluble anionic binder" rather than being "in an aqueous solution". This is supported in the specification on page 7, lines 26-27. Furthermore, Claims 17 and 27  
15    have also been amended to describe the cationic polyelectrolyte as "being over 1000 and up to 10,000 weight average molecular weight". This is a range within the range given on page 9, line 1. No new matter has been added.

- Claims 17, 21-27, 30, 32, 50-57 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Furthermore,  
20    claims 17, 21-27, 30, 32, and 50-57 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. With the amendment of claims 17 and 27 describing the at least one dye as "water-soluble"  
25    and deleting the phrase "in an aqueous solution" to describe the dye-based inkjet ink composition as well as to specify the molecular weight of the cationic polyelectrolyte as being "over 1000 and up to 10,000 weight average molecular weight", the Examiner's concerns should be alleviated.

- 30    Claims 17, 23-27, 32, 52-55, and 57 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kurabayashi et al. or Takahashi et al., either of which in view of Watanabe et al..

Both Kurabayashi and Takahashi disclose a liquid composition which is a part of an ink set. This liquid composition has a cationic component of 1000 or less MW, which may be a quaternary ammonium compound (Kurabayashi: Column 5, line 33 to 38; Takahashi: from Column 5, line 67 to Column 6, line 9). In addition this liquid composition also includes a cationic component, which does not include a quaternary ammonium compound, the cationic component having a MW of from 1500 to 10,000 (Kurabayashi: Column 6, line 8 to 26; Takahashi: Column 6, line 32 to 37). Furthermore, both Kurabayashi and Takahashi disclose an ink having a water-soluble anionic dye.

Combining Kurabayashi or Takahashi with Watanabe would neither suggest nor make obvious the presently claimed invention. In the presently claimed invention, the quaternary ammonium compounds disclosed in both Kurabayashi and Takahashi are 1000 MW or less and are therefore distinguishably different than the larger cationic polyelectrolytes such as quaternary ammonium, having a weight average MW of over 1000 and up to 10,000 of the presently claimed invention. Kurabayashi, Takahashi or Watanabe neither teach nor suggest anything about the desirability or effectiveness of larger polyelectrolytes in achieving the amorphous, viscous fluid achieved in the presently claimed invention. However, in the amendment responding to the previous office action, applicants' attorney was mistaken in arguing that Kurabayashi teaches a water insoluble anionic resin which forms an emulsion in the ink. In any case, neither Watanabe nor Kurabayashi teach or suggest the presently claimed invention.

On the basis of the above amendments and arguments, the 103(a) rejection of 17, 23-27, 32, 52-55 and 57 based on Kurabayashi or Takahashi in view of Watanabe should be withdrawn.

In light of the above amendments and arguments, applicants respectfully request that the §§ 112 and 103(a) rejections be withdrawn.

A prompt and positive response is respectfully request d.

Respectfully Submitted,

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